



Operation Iraqi Freedom II

"Telling the First Team's Story"

Friday, April 16, 2004

First Team Takes Over:

Transfer of Authority From 1AD Complete

By Pfc. Al Barrus

122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The 1st Cavalry Division's colors were uncased during a ceremony that took place in view of the "crossed swords" Iraq-Iran War memorial in the Green Zone. The ceremony marked the transfer of authority of the Baghdad area of operation from the 1st Armored Division to the First Team.

Third Armored Corps Commanding General and Coalition Joint Task Force 7 Deputy Commander Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz was the keynote speaker at the ceremony. He explained that 1st AD did not case their colors because they are still needed for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"It's no mistake that the colors [of 1st AD] aren't cased," Metz said. "For strategic, operational and tactical reasons we still need the combat power of the 1st Armored Division."

The transfer of authority ceremony included the presentation of 1st Cav's colors by the division's Commanding General



Photos by Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

(Above) 1st Cavalry Division Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli presents his unit's colors at the transfer of authority ceremony at the Green Zone Thursday. (Below) 1st Cavalry and 1st Armored Divisions' honor guard teams prepare for the transfer of authority ceremony at the Iran-Iraq War monument at the Green Zone. Though relieved of their responsibility for the greater Baghdad area, the 1st Armored Division remains in Iraq supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, 1st Armored Commanding General Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey removed his unit's colors from the area of operation.

"I watched [1st Cav] get ready for this deployment," Metz noted. "I know how ready they are and I am absolutely confident that they will pick up

where the 1st Armored [left] off in Baghdad in a continuous and successful march to a free, stable and prosperous Iraq."

Honor guard teams from both divisions were present bearing their colors as well as the Army and United States flags. The 1st Cav's Honor Guard wore ceremonial uniforms for the event: replicas of the uniforms worn during the American Indian Wars in the 1800s, according to Spc. Justin Lidgett, a member of the honor guard.

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1-5 Cav Mourns Loss of Ally, Mentor, Friend

By Pfc. Al Barrus
122nd MPAD

CAMP BONZAI- The Kevlar helmet sits on the buttstock of the inverted rifle. Identification tags hang down from the weapon. Desert-tan boots rest at the foot of the weapon, at the position of attention. A framed photo rests on the side of this display on the side. The Soldier in the photo is Sgt. Gerardo Moreno, a team leader for C Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

A memorial service was held April 12 at Camp Bonzai

for Moreno, who was killed in action April 6.

"We were out there pulling guard on an Iraqi Police station in Al-Shula," recalled Staff Sgt. Dearn Golden, Moreno's squad leader. "We were watching [when] some people started trying to overrun the station at about 1:30 a.m. 'Then we got hit by a rocket propelled grenade and it impacted Sgt. Moreno. It hit him right on. It happened so fast no one knew what happened. He died instantly.'"

Moreno was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

All companies of 1-5 Cav., as well as a supporting Iraqi Civil Defense Corps platoon waited patiently and mourned silently as spiritual music set the tone for the memorial ceremony.

During the ceremony in front of the 1-5 Cav. headquarters building, one of Moreno's Soldiers and friends, Spc. Donmonic Simpson read a reflection of the kindness of his team leader and best friend.

"We were more than just friends, we were brothers," Simpson said. "He always called me his little brother. Sgt. Moreno had a big heart," said

Simpson. "When I couldn't make it home for Thanksgiving, he offered to take me home with him. I went to his home and he made me feel as though I was a part of his family."

Another one of Moreno's Soldiers and friends, Spc. Guy Gille spoke of how the sergeant was a great leader, and a person who you could always talk to when you were having a hard time.

"We didn't work for him just because he was an NCO or our team leader, we worked for him because he treated us with respect and he was always there for us," Gille said. "He was a leader who inspired you to give 110-percent of yourself because that's what he gave."

Loved and respected by soldiers, Moreno also held the respect of his commander, Capt. Luis Fuchu of C Co., who said he was a great non-commissioned officer.

"He was always pushing his boys to the max and he was always trying to be a better father to his children and a better leader to his Soldiers," Fuchu said. "He was hard when he needed to be hard. He was a listener when he needed to listen to the boys. He spoke when something needed to be said."

The ceremony concluded with a shared prayer and moment of silence.

Moreno's First Sergeant,



By Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

A formation of troopers of 1-5 Cav., 2BCT salute a Soldier's memorial display honoring their fallen comrade Sgt. Gerardo Moreno April 12 at Camp Bonzai.

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Today in Cav History

1967 SP4 George A. Ingalls, A-2/5 Cavalry earns the Medal of Honor. 2000 Operation Desert Spring 2000-01 - Kuwait initiated

Today in History April 16

► From historychannel.com

1863 Passage of Vicksburg
1935 "Fibber McGee & Molly" premieres
1943 Hallucinogenic effects of LSD discovered
1947 Bernard Baruch coins the term "Cold War"
1972 Apollo 16 departs for moon
1972 U.S. resumes bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong
1997 "Reasonable doubt" saves the defense

"Shattered Dreams" Teaches Teens

► From *Killeen Daily Herald*

KILLEEN, Texas—Christian Garcia lay slumped over the driver-side car door of the Mercury wagon, his head and torso lifeless on the hood of the Oldsmobile Ninety-Eight that had just plowed into him on 38th Street.

The entire student body of Killeen High School poured into the Wednesday morning sun to gawk at the carnage, as the rescue workers arrived at the scene of the mock tragedy.

The accident, part of the Shattered Dreams Drinking and Driving program, was gruesome and detailed. Organizers hope the message sent to teens is as real as the dramatization looked — don't drink and drive.

Shannon Barkwell, victim's advocate for Mothers Against Drunk Driving, said the Shattered Dreams program is successful in teaching kids

about the dangers of drinking and driving.

"They see their friends out here, and it touches them," Barkwell said. "It brings it home for them a little more."

Several area agencies spent the last four months preparing for the elaborate display, including the Central Texas Chapter of MADD, Texas Department of Public Safety, Killeen Parks and Recreation, Metroplex Hospital, Killeen Police Department, Killeen Fire Department, Copperas Cove Fire Department and Scott & White Memorial Hospital in Temple.

The production began with crashed cars put into place, as well as their injured and deceased passengers, played by Killeen High students.

Killeen students lined the streets as rescue workers and law enforcement officers reacted to the scene as if it were real.

The Jaws of Life were used to extract students, who were taken away in ambulances, a medevac helicopter, a body bag and a hearse. An ominous, black-hooded Grim Reaper stalked the scene and the crowd throughout the ordeal.

The actor/drunken driver of the Oldsmobile Ninety-Eight, Brandon Smith, was put to a field sobriety test and taken to the police station for fingerprints and booking.

"It makes you think twice," said senior Josh Petty, watching the drama play out. "It kind of hits close to home since it's people you know."

Fort Hood's Darnall Army Community Hospital paramedic Karen Higginbotham watched with goose bumps and said she thought the students would take it more seriously when they see the film of it. "To me if you save one or make one think, it's worth a life saved," Higginbotham said.

1CD To Continue Their Legacy

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While the long history of the First Team is a source of unit pride, their commanding general said the division stands ready to add to the legacy.

"[This event] marks a turning point," Chiarelli said, following the ceremony. "It marks a new division coming into the Baghdad area to take up the great work done by the 1st Armored Division. 'I can't tell you how much we appreciate how they have set the plate for us here in Baghdad. They have done a fantastic job ... in getting Baghdad to where it is today.'"

Platoon Sgt. Moreno Remembered by Colleagues

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1st Sgt. Morris Welch called roll call for his fallen soldier. Taps was played and a rifle squad fired off nine rounds in respectful salute.

Spectators formed a line and paid their respects to Moreno. One by one, Soldiers saluted his memorial, while some placed coins and other memorabilia on it.

When the ceremony came to a close, Moreno's fellow soldiers broke formation and shared memories together of their lost ally, mentor and friend.

"Sgt. Moreno lives in each of us in 2nd Platoon 'Outlaws,'" said Simpson.

"He is our brother and a part of our family. We love you, and we will miss you 'til the day we meet again."

Moreno joined the Army in May of 1999 and became a member of 1st Cavalry Division June of 2003 when he moved to Fort Hood, Texas, after serving in Fort Drum, New York under the 10th Mountain Division.

Moreno was born March 18th, 1981 in his hometown of Terrell, Texas. He is survived by wife Teresa, son Dominique, daughter Marrisol, father Gerardo, mother Sandra and brother Jose.



By Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD
Memorial display stands in tribute to Sgt. Gerardo Moreno at Camp Bonzai.

Copperas Cove Seeks Win in District

► From Copperas Cove Leader-Press

COPPERAS COVE, Texas- Brian Ruggiano struck out 12 and allowed two runs on seven hits as Belton beat Copperas Cove 5-2 last Friday at Bulldawg Field.

"We had some two-out hits and two-strike hits today and that was something that we hadn't been doing lately," said Belton head coach David Tidwell.

Michael Carter and Josh Welch combined to strike out seven and gave up just seven hits. Carter (1-3) took the loss for the Dawgs, who fall to 0-6 in district and 6-12 overall. "We had our chances again,"

said Cove head coach Brian Jost. "As long as we can continue giving ourselves the chances eventually we'll come through (with a win)." Ruggiano remained unbeaten on the season at 5-0. "He's been throwing real well," Tidwell said. "We were trying to finish it up with him and try to get him a win."

"We hit the ball better tonight," said Jost. "Right now my focus is on us getting better because I have a lot of young kids on the field."

Cove will look to notch its first district win when they host A&M Consolidate at Bulldawg Field.

Cove Lady Dawgs Celebrate End of Year

► From Copperas Cove Leader-Press

KILLEEN, TX- Killeen's Plaza Hotel Ballroom was the sight for a gala banquet sponsored by the Copperas Cove Lady Dawg Basketball Booster Club Sunday evening.

The Lady Dawgs traded in their basketball uniforms for evening gowns for the affair. Club president Jennifer Flood served as the Mistress of Ceremonies.

Five Lady Dawg coaches were recognized for their efforts this year.

First-year head coach Kevin Baker and assistant, varsity head coach Marsha Hammond led a team picked for the cellar to an astounding 24-10 record that saw the win column doubled for Cove from the previous season.

Cove would win their first tournament in four years and finish as the District 13-5A runners-up. The Lady Dawgs of the 2003-2004 campaign would come within three points of

advancing to the second round of the playoffs.

The four awards voted on by the varsity team were Most Valuable Player, Defensive Player of the Year, Heart and Hustle Award, and Most Improved Player.

Senior Jasmine Hernandez received the Most Valuable Player award. Senior Tammy Payne, dubbed "Cove's Secretary of Defense" six games into the season, was named Defensive Player of the Year by her teammates. Payne was also named District 13-5A's Co-Defensive Player of the Year.

Senior Crystal Schmalzried was picked by her team to receive the coveted Cove Lady Dawg Heart and Hustle Award.

Miss Andi Stover was honored with the Most Improved Player Award by her fellow Lady Dawgs. Senior Amber Kepler was named by the Cove Leader-Press to receive the inaugural Jody Conradt Award.

Friday

High: 80
Low: 59



Saturday

High: 78
Low: 55



Sunday

High: 85
Low: 55



TV GUIDE

	AFN ATLANTIC	AFN PACIFIC	AFN Sports	AFN Spectrum
18:00	Kim Possible/ My Life as a Teenage Robot	Tonight Show/ The Late Show 18:30	Sportscenter 17:30/ Pardon the Interruption 18:30	The X-Files
19:00	Jeopardy/ Headline News	Access Hollywood 19:30	Sportscenter	The Wild Thornberrys/ The Fairly Oddparents
20:00	ESPNNews/ Headline News	Doctor Dolittle	ESPNNews/ Baseball Tonight 20:20	The Simpsons/ The Cosby Show
21:00	The Simpsons/ Malcolm in the Middle	Godzilla 21:30	Sportscenter	American Idol/ My Wife and Kids
22:00	Survivor: All- Stars		Sports Special	Boston Public

Scores



MLB:

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Toronto 11
Detroit 0

Chicago 6
Kansas City 5

Texas 7
Oakland 2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Philadelphia 6
Cincinnati 4

Chicago 10
Pittsburgh 5

Florida 3
Montreal 0

Arizona 11
Colorado 10